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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
AND  
SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER  
TOGETHER WITH THE REPORT OF THE  
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR  
FOR THE YEAR 1942



JAMES A. M. CLARK,  
M.D., Ch.B. D.P.H.



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# COUNTY BOROUGH OF WALSALL.

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## **ANNUAL REPORT** OF THE **MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

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TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE  
COUNTY BOROUGH OF WALSALL.

Madam Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the state of the public health of the Borough during the year 1942. The Report is again abbreviated in accordance with the instruction of the Ministry of Health.

The health of the Borough has remained satisfactory during the year, the incidence of infectious disease, apart from Scarlet Fever, has remained satisfactory. The general death rate again shows a decrease, being 10.80 as compared with 11.74 in 1941, and compared with the national rate of 11.6, and a rate for the great towns of 13.3.

The birth rate again shows an increase being 19.56, as against 18.12 in 1941. The figures for the whole country are 15.8 and 14.2. There has been a slight increase in the illegitimate birth rate. The Infantile Mortality rate of 52.32 per 1000 births, compares favourably with the low record of 51.42 in 1941. The rate is again well below the rate for the great towns (59).

The number of cases referred to the Tuberculosis Dispensary for examination shows a big increase, although the actual number of new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis diagnosed shows little change. The notification rate for both pulmonary and non-pulmonary shows slight



variations only. There were 67 deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis during 1942, as compared with 79 in 1941 and 73 in 1940, the deaths from other forms of tuberculosis being 13, 7, and 7 respectively.

The number of patients examined at the Venereal Diseases clinic shows a marked increase, the increase being accounted for principally by the number of patients suffering from conditions other than venereal who have come for diagnosis.

Under the ægis of the Social Welfare Committee, a "free choice" domiciliary medical service was introduced during the year. Twenty-one medical practioners practising in the Borough have accepted service under the new scheme.

The past year has been a busy one and I am grateful to all members of the staff of the department for their loyal help, freely given at all times.

To the Chairman and members of my various committees, I too am grateful for their support and encouragement.

I am,

Yours obediently,

JAMES A. M. CLARK, M.D., D.P.H.,  
Medical Officer of Health.

August 1943.

## SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.

### 1. General Statistics.

Area in Acres	..	..	..	..	..	..	8,780
Number of Inhabited Houses	{	At	1931 Census	..	..	23,311	
Number of Families				..	..	24,953	
Number of Inhabited Houses 1942				..	..	27,942	
Number of Persons per House				..	..	3.7	
Rateable Value	..	..	..	..	..	£548,559	
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	..	..	..	..	..	£2,122	
Population per Acre	..	..	..	..	..	11.7	

### 2. Extracts from Vital Statistics.

Number of Births	<div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle;"> <div style="font-size: 3em; vertical-align: middle; margin-right: 0.1em;">{</div> <div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle;"> Legitimate M.1040—F.904—Total 1,944—Total  Illegitimate M. 36—F. 25—Total 61—2,005 </div> </div>	
Registered		
Birth Rate per 1,000 population .. .. .		19.56
Number of Deaths (M. 623, F. 484) .. .. .		Total 1,107
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population .. .. .		10.80
Number of Women dying in or in consequence of Childbirth—		
From Puerperal Sepsis .. .. .		1
From other Puerperal Causes .. .. .		3
Maternal Mortality per 1,000 (live and still) Births .. .. .		1.93
Number of Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age .. .. .		105
Infant Mortality per 1,000 Births .. .. .		52.32
Infant Mortality (legitimate infants) per 1,000 births .. .. .		51.44
Do. (illegitimate infants) do. .. .. .		81.97
Death Rates per 1,000 Population, from—		
Respiratory Tuberculosis .. .. .		0.65
All forms of Tuberculosis .. .. .		0.78
Respiratory Diseases (excluding Tuberculosis) .. .. .		1.35
Cancer .. .. .		1.38
Seven Principal Zymotic Diseases (Smallpox, Enteric Fever, Measles, Scarlet Fever, Whooping Cough, Diphtheria and Membranous Croup) .. .. .		0.27

Death Rate from Diarrhoea and Enteritis of Children under 2 years of age, per 1,000 births .. .. .	7.48
Deaths from Diarrhoea under 2 years .. .. .	15
Deaths from Measles (all ages) .. .. .	1
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) .. .. .	5

#### CORONER'S INQUESTS.

143 inquests were held in the Borough during the year (98 males and 45 females).

POST-MORTEM EXAMINATIONS ordered by Coroner .. .. .	109
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#### SUMMARY OF INQUESTS.

	M.	F.
Death by Murder .. .. .	—	—
„ Suicide .. .. .	3	2
„ Manslaughter and Infanticide .. .. .	—	—
„ Self-induced Abortion .. .. .	—	—
„ Excessive Drinking .. .. .	—	—
„ Want of Attention at Birth .. .. .	—	1
Accident or Misadventure .. .. .	42	18
Death from Natural Causes .. .. .	53	21
Stillborn .. .. .	—	1
Open Verdicts .. .. .	—	2
Inquests adjourned .. .. .	—	—
	<hr/> 98	<hr/> 45

Inquests on children suffocated whilst in bed  
(accidental) .. .. .

Inquests on bodies of newly born children .. .. .	2	4
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### Vital Statistics.

The Birth Rate is 19.56 as compared with 15.8 in England and Wales as a whole, and 17.3 for the large towns.

The Death Rate shows a decrease being 10.80 as compared with 11.6 for the country as a whole and 13.3 for the large towns.

The Infant Mortality Rate is 52.32, as compared with 51 in the previous year. The rate for the country as a whole is 49, and for the great towns 59.

There were 4 Maternal Deaths during the year.

The Death Rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis shows a decrease 0.65 as against 0.76 per 1,000 of the population. The death rate from other Respiratory Diseases also shows a considerable decrease, being 1.35 per 1,000 as against 1.62 in the previous year.



# CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE IN WALSALL COUNTY BOROUGH, 1942

As furnished by the Registrar-General

CAUSES OF DEATH.		Sex	All Ages	0-	1-	5-	15-	45-	65-
ALL CAUSES	.. .. .	M. F.	623 484	56 49	16 21	15 9	82 71	170 109	284 225
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	.. .. .	M. F.	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
2. Cerebro-Spinal Fever	.. .. .	M. F.	2 1	— —	1 —	1 —	— —	1 —	— —
3. Scarlet Fever	.. .. .	M. F.	1 1	— —	— —	— —	1 —	— —	— —
4. Whooping Cough	.. .. .	M. F.	3 2	1 1	2 1	— —	— —	— —	— —
5. Diphtheria	.. .. .	M. F.	11 9	— —	2 4	8 5	1 —	— —	— —
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	.. .. .	M. F.	41 26	1 —	— —	— —	27 23	9 3	4 —
7. Other Forms of Tuberculosis	.. .. .	M. F.	4 9	— 3	2 3	— —	2 1	1 3	— 2
8. Syphilitic Diseases	.. .. .	M. F.	6 —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— 2
9. Influenza	.. .. .	M. F.	8 3	1 —	1 —	— —	2 —	2 1	2 2
10. Measles	.. .. .	M. F.	1 —	— —	1 —	— —	— —	— —	— —
11. Ac. Poliomyelitis, etc.	.. .. .	M. F.	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
12. Ac. Inf. Encephalitis	.. .. .	M. F.	— 1	— —	— —	— —	— 1	— —	— —
13. Cancer, Buc. Cavity, Oesophagus and Uterus	.. .. .	M. F.	7 9	— —	— —	— —	2 —	5 6	7 5
14. Cancer, Stomach and Duodenum	.. .. .	M. F.	11 16	— —	— —	— —	1 —	8 —	7 1
15. Cancer of Breast	.. .. .	M. F.	1 11	— —	— —	— —	— 3	— 5	— 3





## Infectious Disease.

**Diphtheria.** 201 cases were notified during the year as compared with 117 during 1941. There were 20 deaths as against 9. 4474 children were immunised against the disease as compared with 3116, 1708 under the age of five years and 2766 between the ages of five and fifteen (883 and 2233 respectively in the previous year). The increase in the number of children immunised under the age of five years is gratifying and is due to the very special efforts which were made by the Health Visitors and doctors to persuade parents to have their young children protected against the disease.

**Scarlet Fever** was much more prevalent than it has been for many years, 628 cases being notified as compared with 165 in 1941. On the whole the disease was of a mild type, but there were two deaths both of a severe type with serious complications.

**Measles** was not so prevalent as in 1941, but persisted during the whole of the year, 355 cases being notified, compared with 1349. There was one fatal case.

**Whooping Cough** also was prevalent during the year, 257 cases being notified compared with 206 in 1941. There were five fatal cases.

170 cases of **Acute Primary or Influenzal Pneumonia** were notified, with 72 deaths, as compared with 201 cases and 62 deaths in 1941.

**Scabies** has been very prevalent, over 500 children having been treated at the School Clinic and many others at Beacon Lodge. In August a special Scabies Treatment Centre was opened at Hatherton Road First Aid Post, and has been in active operation since, treatment being carried out by the Civil Defence personnel under the supervision of one of the School Nurses. To this treatment centre, cases are referred by the Council's Medical Officers and also by General Practitioners.

**Isolation Hospital.** 676 cases were admitted to the Isolation Hospital, 198 cases of Diphtheria, 55 Diphtheria carriers, 335 cases of Scarlet Fever, 3 of Measles and 85 of other diseases.

## ISOLATION HOSPITALS

Table showing cases admitted, deaths, case fatality rate, duration of stay, and percentage of cases isolated.

Diseases	No. of cases notified	No. of cases admitted	Deaths	Mortality rate per 1,000 cases admitted	Total No. of patient days in 1942	Average duration of stay (weeks) of patients discharged or died	Percentage of notified cases isolated
Smallpox .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria .. ..	201	198	19	96.0	6534	5.6	98.5%
+Contacts .. ..	—	55	—	—	1146	3.2	—
Scarlet Fever .. ..	628	335	2	6.0	9890	4.3	53.3%
Measles .. ..	355	3	—	—	61	1.7	0.8%
Erysipelas .. ..	54	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Diseases .. ..	—	85	4	47.1	1250	2.2	—
Total .. ..	1238	676	25	37.0	18881	4.1	—

# CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1942

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT												TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH WARD								Total Deaths *			
	At All Ages.	At Ages—Years											Bloxwich Ward	Leamore Ward	Harden Ward	Birchills Ward	Hatherton Ward	Paddock Ward	Bridge Ward	Pleck Ward		Caldmore Ward	Palfrey Ward	
		Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65												65 and upwards
Small-Pox ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cholera (C.) Plague (P.)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ..	201	—	4	12	17	100	45	12	11	—	—	—	—	23	17	61	28	16	7	10	10	14	20	20
Erysipelas ..	54	1	—	—	—	2	1	2	13	9	21	5	—	6	5	19	5	4	3	1	4	3	—	—
Scarlet Fever ..	628	6	15	38	52	304	95	21	36	13	5	—	—	104	78	72	79	45	73	18	58	66	2	2
Typhus Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ..	355	18	38	43	58	151	12	—	3	—	—	—	—	40	15	46	24	18	41	11	56	50	1	1
Whooping Cough ..	251	30	24	33	37	75	3	—	3	—	—	—	—	14	12	10	11	7	11	12	80	57	5	5
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	4	2	—	1



[illegible]

\*These deaths do not necessarily refer to the cases notified.

## MANOR HOSPITAL.

The following report as to the work of the Manor Hospital has been supplied by Mr. E. S. Clayton, M.D., F.R.C.S. (Ed.) Medical Superintendent.

“It has been necessary to control the in-patient admissions owing to the war situation. They, nevertheless, reached a high level. In practically all departments of the hospital there has been an increase of work done and the crest of the wave has not yet been reached.

The necessity for a Childrens' and Babies' Block is still very great and very urgent. Only by this means can proper spacing and nursing of babies and children be obtained.

The provision of an out-patient department is also most urgent and essential if the present out-patient policy is to be continued.

Staffing has been short in all departments, but I think it may be said that a successful year's work has been accomplished.”

### Statistics for the year ending 31st December, 1942

Total admissions	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,910
Patients in hospital on 1st January	..	..	..	..	..	..	232
Total number of deaths during the year	..	..	..	..	..	..	299

### Accommodation.

Men	..	..	..	..	..	..	130
Women	..	..	..	..	..	..	147
Children	..	..	..	..	..	..	56
							<hr/> 333 <hr/>

plus 111 Emergency beds

Average number of beds occupied	..	..	..	..	..	241
Highest number of beds occupied	..	11.9.42	..	..	..	285
Lowest number of beds occupied	..	25.12.42	..	..	..	180
Surgical operations	..	..	..	..	..	1,753
Dental operations	..	..	..	..	..	527

**Maternity Department.**

Births	..	..	..	..	..	..	733
Stillbirths	..	..	..	..	..	..	26
Doctor present at	..	..	..	..	..	..	92
Forcep deliveries	..	..	..	..	..	..	33
Caesarean sections		..	..	..	..	..	7
Deaths	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Undelivered—nil.							

**Massage and Electrical Department.**

Treatments given :—

Massage	..	..	..	..	..	..	5,841
Electrical	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,976
Radiant Heat	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,488
Ultra-Violet light	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,074

**X-Ray Department.**

Number of films taken	..	..	..	..	..	4,234
Number of screen examinations	..	..	..	..	..	504
Pathology and Bio-chemistry specimens sent to Birmingham University, etc	..	..	..	..	..	615

**Out-Patient Department.**

Patients with doctor's notes seen	..	..	..	6,262
Dressings.	..	..	..	26,177
New Patients in Casualty Department	..	..	..	1,730
Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic	..	..	..	1,099
Gynaecological Clinic	..	..	..	905
Diabetic Clinic	..	..	..	705
New Fractures	..	..	..	219
Attendances at Fracture Clinic	..	..	..	1,478
Massage and Electrical Department attendances	..	..	..	18,327
Total number of new Service Cases	..	..	..	54
Total number of Out-patient attendances	..	..	..	62,251

## MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

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The demand for maternity beds increases each year, there being many requests for the reservation of beds from areas adjacent to Walsall. It has been impracticable to meet the demands of Walsall residents and applications from non-residents have had to be turned down. With the increasing demand for institutional maternity accommodation there has been a decrease in the number of trained staff in our hospitals and the position in regard to trained nursing staff has become so acute that steps may have to be taken at an early date to restrict still further the number of admissions to our maternity beds.

773 confinements took place at the Manor Hospital and 297 at the Maternity Hospital, Bloxwich. 141 took place in private nursing homes, and 1052 on the district.

The attendances at the Ante-natal Clinics have also shown a marked increase, 962 mothers having attended the extern clinics and 660 the Ante-natal clinic at the Manor Hospital. 89 ante-natal medical examinations were made by doctors on mothers referred to them from the clinics or by Municipal midwives.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Centres have also been well attended, 1739 new infants having been brought for medical examination and advice, the total attendances being 34,040 as against 37,953 in 1941.

**War time Day Nurseries.** Two Nurseries were opened in April and three others in the early part of 1943. The two nurseries first opened are in church school halls and the other three in hutments supplied by the Ministry of Health. All nurseries are being fully used and have served a very useful purpose in releasing married women for urgent work in war-time factories. The health and habits of the children in regular attendance have shown a striking improvement, and we have been remarkably free from outbreaks of infectious disease..



**Table showing particulars of the cases dealt with at the Maternity Block, Manor Hospital, and at the Maternity Hospital at Bloxwich**

DETAILS OF CASES	MANOR HOSPITAL	MATERNITY HOSPITAL
Number of Cases admitted during 1942 .. ..	739	306
Average duration of stay .. .. .	13.0 days	12.9 days
No. of Cases delivered by—		
(a) Midwives .. .. .	641	205
(b) Doctors .. .. .	92	92
No. of cases in which medical assistance was sought by a midwife in emergency .. ..	262	33
No. of Cases of Puerperal Pyrexia notified ..	1	Nil.
No. of Cases of pemphigus neonatorum ..	Nil.	Nil.
No. of infants not entirely breast fed while in the Institution .. .. .	206	22
No. of Cases notified as ophthalmia neonatorum ..	Nil.	Nil.
No. of Maternal Deaths .. .. .	1	Nil.
No. of deaths—		
(a) Stillborn .. .. .	27	11
(b) Within 10 days of birth and their causes, and the results of the post-mortem examination, if obtainable .. .. .	† 21	* 5

† 14 died from Premature Birth, 3 from Icterus Neonatorum, 1 from Intercranial Hæmorrhage, 2 from Atelectasis and 1 from Pneumonia.

\* 2 died from Premature Birth, 2 from Congenital defects and 1 from Bronchitis.

**Table showing number of Midwives practising in the Borough and cases attended during 1942**

	Domiciliary Midwives	Midwives in Institutions	Totals	
No. of Midwives practising in the Borough at the end of 1942—				
(a) Employed by the Council ..	13	10	23	
(b) In private practice .. ..	1	4	5	
	14	14	28	
	Domiciliary Cases	Cases in Institutions	Totals	
No. of cases in the Borough attended by Midwives—				
(a) Employed by the Council—				
(i) As Midwives .. ..	921	846	1,767	
(ii) As Maternity Nurses ..	111	184	295	
(b) In private practice—				
(i) As Midwives .. ..	—	32	32	
(ii) As Maternity Nurses ..	—	112	112	
TOTALS {	(i) As Midwives .. ..	921	878	1,799
	(ii) As Maternity Nurses ..	111	296	407
		1,032	1,174	2,206

**Attendances Registered at the Infant Welfare Centres.**

CENTRE	Under 6 months		6—12 months		1—2 years		2—5 years		Total		New Cases
	A.	M.	A.	M.	A.	M.	A.	M.	A.	M.	
Pool St. ..	1807	765	1103	300	670	289	1135	389	4715	1743	243
Field Rd. ..	2785	870	1886	273	1351	460	2482	732	8504	2335	490
Littleton St.	2097	827	1523	353	892	311	1755	512	6267	2003	275
Countess St.	2914	1030	1848	323	1493	523	2110	734	8365	2610	406
Ida Rd. ..	2359	949	1495	398	865	294	1470	440	6189	2081	325
Total ..	11962	4441	7855	1647	5271	1877	8952	2807	34040	10772	1739

# INFANT MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1942

Nett Deaths from stated Causes at various ages under One year of age

CAUSES OF DEATH	Total Deaths under One Year	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	1 & under 3 months	3 & under 6 months	6 & under 9 months	9 & under 12 months	Bloxwich	Leamore	Harden	Birchills	Hatherton	Paddock	Bridge	Pleck	Caldmore	Palfrey
Measles .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough .. .	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Other Common Infectious Diseases .. .	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diarrhoea and Enteritis .. .	15	—	—	—	—	—	11	1	2	1	2	1	5	3	—	2	1	—	1	—
Premature Birth .. .	30	21	4	2	3	30	—	—	—	—	1	1	3	1	2	4	11	3	1	3
Congenital Malformations; Birth Injury; Infant Diseases .. .	27	14	2	3	1	20	3	3	1	—	1	2	4	4	—	2	4	4	2	4
Tubercular Diseases .. .	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	1	—	—
Bronchitis and Pneumonia .. .	17	—	—	—	2	2	4	6	4	1	1	3	5	2	1	1	1	—	3	—
Other Causes .. .	9	2	1	—	—	3	1	3	—	2	—	1	2	3	1	—	1	—	1	—
TOTALS .. .	105	37	7	6	6	56	19	16	8	6	6	8	20	14	4	10	19	8	8	8

Nett Births in the Year—Legitimate, 1,944; Illegitimate, 61.      Nett Deaths in the Year of Legitimate Infants, 100; Illegitimate Infants, 5



## TUBERCULOSIS.

82 patients were admitted to Pelsall Sanatorium during the year and 69 to Goscote. There were 16 deaths at Pelsall and 17 at Goscote.

107 new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified during the year as against 105 in the previous year and 25 of other forms as against 22.

552 new patients were examined at the Dispensary as against 428, 115 new cases of Tuberculosis being diagnosed compared with 110. 13.0% of the total examinations represented "contacts."

The following table shows the new cases notified and deaths during 1942.

	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1 ..	—	—	—	3	1	—	—	3
1—5 ..	—	—	2	3	—	—	2	3
5—10 ..	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—
10—15 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—20 ..	7	7	3	2	5	2	1	2
20—25 ..	7	10	1	2	7	4	—	—
25—35 ..	17	6	—	1	6	11	1	—
35—45 ..	20	7	—	—	9	6	—	—
45—55 ..	10	3	2	2	5	1	—	1
55—65 ..	8	2	—	—	4	2	—	—
Above 65	3	—	—	—	4	—	—	—
Totals ..	72	35	10	15	41	26	4	9



TABLE SHOWING THE WORK OF THE VENEREAL DISEASES CLINIC DURING THE YEAR 1942.

	Syphilis		Soft Chancres		Gonorrhoea		Conditions other than Venereal		Totals		Totals
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Number of cases on Register 1st January, 1942	61	41	1	—	27	36	2	12	91	89	180
Number of old cases returned for treatment or observation of same infection	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Number of new cases dealt with for the first time	21	21	—	—	77	29	45	113	143	163	306
Number of new cases transferred from other centres	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	6
Total cases dealt with	86	65	1	—	104	65	47	125	238	255	493
Attendances—Medical examinations	1726	912	2	—	1568	510	176	429	3472	1851	5323
Irrigation, dressings	6	—	—	—	520	213	7	158	533	371	904
Total attendances	1732	912	2	—	2088	723	183	587	4005	2222	6227
Patients admitted to hospital	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	3
“In-patient days”	44	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	44	5	49
Walsall persons treated at Centres in other towns	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Number of new cases attending during 1942—	31	—	—	—	69	—	82	—	—	—	182
Walsall	11	—	—	—	37	—	76	—	—	—	124
Staffordshire											
Microscopical											
Others for diagnosis of Venereal Disease											
Pathological Work—											
Specimens examined at Walsall Clinic											
86											

# **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR**

for the year ended 31st December, 1942

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TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE  
COUNTY BOROUGH OF WALSALL

Madam Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I herewith submit my Eighth Annual Report, viz :— That for the year 1942, giving particulars of the sanitary administration of the Borough.

The nature of the work carried out during the year has followed largely that reported upon during the years 1939 to 1941. Every endeavour has been made to maintain the sanitary service at as high a level as possible.

The position with regard to the maintenance of satisfactory standards of repair and sanitary accommodation to property continued to be difficult, both with regard to materials and labour.

The work in connection with the inspection and supervision of food stuffs, including milk supplies, has continued to be heavy.

Miss B. Harper, Shorthand-typist, who had been in the department for three years, volunteered for service in the W.A.A.F. Mr Bernard Owen, Junior Clerk, was called to the Forces in December. Miss C. Bytheway was appointed as Temporary Clerk.

The following paragraphs give a brief survey of the work which it has been possible to accomplish during the year.

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The total number of visits and inspections made to all premises for the purpose of sanitary inspection was 16,076, which together with 3,498 visits made in connection with Civil Defence and Food Control gives a total number of visits of 19,574.

1,686 complaints were investigated, and 1,345 visits were made to infected houses.

385 houses were improved by repairs to the structures, 861 houses received attention with respect to water closet and ashbin accommodation, drainage repairs and abatement of other nuisances, a total number of 1,246 houses being improved during the year.

## HOUSING.

At the 31st December, 1941, there were 459 houses in respect of which Clearance, Compulsory Purchase Orders or Individual Unfit demolition orders were operative, still in occupation. 41 of these houses were closed during the year, the families being accommodated in re-let Council houses. The 41 families were taken from such houses as were in the worst structural condition. 13 houses were re-let under licence.

At the 31st December, 1942, there remained 431 unfit houses still in occupation. A large proportion of these houses are now controlled by the Council, having been acquired under Compulsory Purchase Orders and many of them have had urgent works of repair carried out in order to maintain some degree of comfort for the occupiers.

The following list shows the progress made under the Housing Acts 1930 and 1936, to 31st December, 1942.

Houses represented as unfit	..	..	..	..	3,030
„ closed	..	..	..	..	2,477
„ demolished	..	..	..	..	2,286
No. of persons displaced	..	..	..	..	10,986



The 93 houses which were demolished during the year were in such a condition that it was impossible to regard them as being suitable for emergency accommodation.

### DISINFESTATION

The Disinfestation Service had a busy year in spite of staff difficulties. It was again found possible to treat furniture and effects of families rehoused from unfit houses, and, in addition, treatment was carried out to a limited number of Council and privately-owned houses found to be verminous.

The services of the department have also been widely used in respect of the steam disinfection of bedding used by Civil Defence Services and Firewatchers, and a regular service was maintained as far as possible. Some 6,228 articles of bedding were treated during the year.

### OVERCROWDING

As previously reported, it is impossible to give any reliable figures with regard to the overcrowding position. Overcrowding cases are constantly being met with but owing to the shortage of housing accommodation it is not possible to institute satisfactory measures of abatement.



## INSPECTION and SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

**Inspection of Meat and Other Foods.** The inspection and supervision of food continues to take a great deal of the time of the Sanitary Inspectors. Slaughtering has continued at the Government-controlled slaughterhouse in Shortacre Street, although the number of animals killed and inspected was substantially less than in the previous year. A feature of the year's work has been the increased quantity of tinned foods requiring examination.

The following table sets out the number of carcasses inspected, together with particulars of carcasses or parts thereof condemned, and is in the form required by the Ministry of Health.

1942

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed and inspected ..	4,269	1,743	6,132	33,276	578
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS .. ..					
Whole carcasses condemned ..	1	14	37	51	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ..	819	684	12	1,414	19
Percentage of the number inspect- ed affected with all diseases except tuberculosis .. ..	19.20%	40.04%	.79%	4.40%	3.28%
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY.					
Whole carcasses condemned ..	15	30	5	Nil	7
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ..	585	771	32	Nil	46
Percentage of the number inspect- ed affected with tuberculosis	14.05%	45.95%	.60%	Nil	9.14%

(Total number of carcasses examined .. .. 45,998)

**Unwholesome Food Condemned.** The following table gives details of the nature and weight of food stuffs condemned as unfit for human consumption during the year 1942, the bulk of the food stuffs being surrendered to the Sanitary Inspectors at the time of inspection.

				Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Meat and Offals	..	..		50	18	2	10½
Bacon and Ham	..	..		—	1	2	16½
Sausages	..	..	..	—	—	3	2
Cheese	..	..	..	—	1	2	12
Flour	..	..	..	—	1	—	—
Roller Oats	..	..	..	—	—	2	4
Eggs	..	..	..	—	1	—	21
Tea	..	..	..	—	—	—	13
Fish	..	..	..	—	3	—	22
Fruit and Vegetables		..		—	3	2	3
Various Tinned Foods		..		3	0	1	20½
Total				54	12	2	12½

Every effort was made to salvage for purposes other than human consumption the food condemned as unfit, subject to satisfactory safeguards as to the method of disposal.

**Ministry of Food—Food Control.** With regard to the duties carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors as Food Enforcement Inspectors of the Ministry of Food, approximately 927 visits were made to food shops and other premises in connection with investigations. The Sanitary Inspectors have appeared at the Police Court with respect to prosecutions instituted by the Food Control Committee. 52 test purchases were made, and certain samples submitted to the Public Analyst. 626 inspections were also made with regard to licences to slaughter pigs kept on private premises.

**Milk (Special Designations) Orders.** The following list gives details of the results of samples of graded milks sold under licences issued under the above Orders.

Designations	No. of samples taken	Satisfactory	Failed
Accredited	25	22	3
Tuberculin Tested	1	1	—
Tuberculin Tested (Certified)	3	1	2
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	23	20	3
Pasteurised	118	57	61

Of the 118 samples of “Pasteurised” milk, 71 were routine samples and 47 samples of school milk. Of the 71 routine samples 40 were satisfactory and 31 were unsatisfactory. 13 of the 31 unsatisfactory samples were from milk processed outside the Borough. Of the 47 samples of school milk, 17 were satisfactory and 30 were unsatisfactory.

An investigation was made with reference to each unsatisfactory sample, and where samples were obtained from retailers whose licensed premises were situate outside Walsall, the authorities concerned were notified as to the unsatisfactory samples.

In connection with the investigations at processing plants, 27 samples of milk were taken, and 108 samples of empty bottles and 17 samples of churn washings were also taken.

35 samples of “Pasteurised” milk and 2 of “T.T. (Pasteurised)” milk were submitted to the Phosphatase Test : all these samples passed the test.



As previously reported, there is still need for a great deal of attention to be given to the question of designated milks.

Arrangements have been made at two of the pasteurising plants in the Borough for additional equipment to be obtained, and at one plant a new bottle-washer has been installed and additional refrigerating accommodation provided. Although this plant is seriously overworked, the position at the end of the year was very much improved.

When considering the granting of licences in respect of designated milk for the year 1943, the Health Committee resolved with regard to certain dairymen, that their licences be granted as a temporary war-time measure, and that considerable improvements will be required at their respective dairies if the granting of licences is to be continued after the end of hostilities.

### SAMPLING.

Mr. F. E. Thompson, A.R.C.S., F.I.C., submits the following particulars of the samples which have been analysed under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and the Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act of 1926.

225 samples were submitted for analysis, 131 were formal samples and 94 were informal. Of these, 16 equivalent to 7.1%, were adulterated.

131 milks were received of which 15, equivalent to 11.4% were adulterated.

1 sugar contained 1.7% excess moisture.

6 samples were taken under the Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act, 1926.

5 samples of gelatine and 8 liquids were examined for injurious constituents in connection with the manufacture of gelatine.



## CONCLUSION

May I again pay tribute to the continued support of the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, and to the help and co-operation of the Medical Officer of Health. To my colleagues in the Health Department who have given unstinting service, I tender my sincere thanks.

Yours obediently,

C. A. STANSBURY, M.S.I.A., M.R.S.A.  
Chief Sanitary Inspector.



**WALSALL EDUCATION COMMITTEE.**

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**REPORT**  
**OF THE**  
**SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER**

**For the Year ended 31st December, 1942.**

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MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Report on the School Medical Service for the year ended 31st December, 1942. The report is considerably curtailed, and is drawn up in accordance with the instructions of the Board of Education.

**1. STAFF.**

We were without the services of one dental officer throughout the year, but in spite of this Mr. Cookson, the Senior Dental Surgeon and his assistant, Mr. Morgan, have covered a large field, inspecting as they have done approximately 12,000 children and treating 5,576 or over 62% of those found to require treatment. That their work is appreciated is shown by the very satisfactory "acceptance" rate.

We have also been without the services of two health visitors for the greater part of the year and we have been unable to fill the vacancies. The shortage in the health visiting staff has meant a considerable curtailment of their work, particularly home visiting—one of the most important features of their work. With so many mothers at work, it is more than ever difficult to maintain contact with the homes and reference to this difficulty is made in the report.

## 2. PHYSICAL AND MENTAL WELFARE.

Dr. Adam, School Medical Inspector, in reporting on the physical and mental welfare of the children as seen by her at the school clinics or in the course of her visits to the schools, states :—

“ There has been no apparent increase in malnutrition among the children, and no noticeable increase of any type of sickness or disability except for a number of cases of ulcers in the mouth. These were apparently due to lack of Vitamin C as they cleared up with appropriate treatment.

Many of the children are dirtier, clad worse and much more frequently fleabitten. Before the war the badly fleabitten child was becoming a rarity.

The attendances at the school clinics remain about the same, but our difficulties increase with the increasing number of children who come up without a parent or other responsible person. In the case of a sick child this delays or makes impossible our assistance to the child ; where the child is verminous or affected with scabies it increases the time lost from school and the risk of spreading the condition. Many of the unaccompanied children are simply children who think it a good idea to have a morning out of school.”

## 3. UNCLEANLINESS.

A cleansing station for Scabies was opened at Hatherton Road First Aid Post in August, and up to the end of December 127 school children had been treated there. The results have been very satisfactory, only 2 cases of relapse having been recorded. Special sessions for adults have also been arranged and every endeavour is made to get whole families treated. All parents and grown ups, however, do not respond and much time is spent in following up defaulters.

During the year under review the two nurses specially appointed to deal with “ uncleanliness ” made 98,087 inspections of individual children for cleanliness conditions. They report that there is a considerable improvement in the condition of many



children but that the "stratum" of dirty families still remains and this is shown by frequent relapses after the child's head has been thoroughly deloused, and is due to the fact that the house is lousy or that the older girls in the household are lousy. The home visiting by the nurses is arduous and disappointing ; with so many mothers at work it is becoming increasingly difficult to make contact with them in their own homes. That the efforts of the nurses are not without result may be shown by referring to some of their returns.

In one senior girl's school where, of 293 girls inspected 38% were found to be lousy when the first inspection was made in January, there was a steady decline in the incidence of dirty heads month by month—apart from a slight rise following the summer holidays—until in December the number of dirty heads had been reduced to 7.4% (297 girls inspected).

In a second senior girls' school an inspection in January showed that of 160 girls inspected 33% had dirty heads. In December this figure was reduced to 11% (200 girls inspected).

In a third school the reduction was much less marked. Of 168 senior girls inspected in January 17.2% had dirty heads. After the summer vacation, of 121 girls inspected no fewer than 28% had dirty heads, this figure being reduced in December to 15.8% (152 girls inspected).

In an infants school 180 boys were inspected in January, 2.2% having dirty heads. In December all were clean. In the same school of 167 girls inspected 23.3% had dirty heads when inspected in January ; in December 10% were still dirty.

In a junior mixed school 17.9% of 156 girls had dirty heads in January and 12.8% of 171 girls in December, the corresponding figure for boys being 2.7% of 179 boys in January and 0.5% of 191 boys in December.

A rise in the incidence of dirty heads is noted in the majority of the schools after each school holiday, and is particularly

noticeable after the summer holidays. This suggests that if the efforts of the nurses were relaxed, conditions would speedily deteriorate.

#### **4. Provision of Meals and Milk for School Children.**

As Dr. Adam reports, apart from the evidence of certain vitamin deficiencies the health of the school child has been well maintained, and there is no evidence of malnutrition. This is due in no small measure to the excellent arrangements which have been made by the Education Committee for the provision of meals free or at a low cost to school children.

Since the last report, two further School Canteens have been opened in the Borough, at Croft Street and Harden Council Schools, with accommodation for 330 and 450 children respectively. There are now eight School Canteens in the Borough, with a total accommodation of over 2,200. Arrangements are now also in hand for the provision of sculleries and dining equipment at five elementary schools, which will be supplied with food from the British Restaurant. By this means, the number of children to be supplied with mid-day meals will be increased by nearly 500, and it is hoped to bring further schools into this scheme in due course. (The figures given above do not include Queen Mary's Schools, where arrangements are now almost complete for dinners to be supplied to 400 boys and 400 girls daily).

Menus for school meals are based, as far as possible in the present circumstances, on specimen diets issued by the Board of Education. The menus vary, of course, with the seasons of the year, but throughout the year, raw salads (consisting, for example, of grated carrot, cabbage and beetroot, with cold meat or cheese) are becoming very popular amongst the children, in spite of difficulties which many children experienced in the early stages in adapting their tastes to what was, for them, an unusual dish.

The charge for dinners remains at 4d. each, which covers the cost of food only. In necessitous cases children receive their meals

free. The total number of meals supplied during the year was 276,182 (211,647 for payment and 64,535 free), as against a total in 1941 of 222,282 (137,788 for payment and 84,494 free).

The supply of milk to school children under the "Milk in Schools" Scheme has continued uninterruptedly throughout the year. About 10,000 children were receiving milk in school at the end of the year ; of these, 600 children in necessitous circumstances were receiving their milk free of charge, and the remainder at the special rate of  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per one-third pint.

## 5. INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

**Diphtheria.** During the year every endeavour has been made to immunise as many children as possible. The schools were visited as usual, and an additional clinic for immunisation was opened on Saturday mornings at Littleton Street School Clinic. Facilities have also been provided at each of the Welfare Centres so that mothers can have their children immunised at each session when they usually attend. The response from the "under fives" has been much better but is not yet so good as it should be.

It was estimated at the end of the year that approximately 33.9% of the children under the age of 5 years, and 58.7% of children between the ages of 5 and 15 had been immunised against Diphtheria.

1,708 children under the age of 5 years and 2,766 children between the ages of 5 and 15, a total of 4,474 were immunised during the year.

In addition 857 children received re-inoculations, and 1,633 were found to be schick negative.

145 cases of diphtheria amongst school children occurred out of a total of 201 cases notified in the borough. The corresponding figures for the previous year were 61 cases amongst school children out of a total of 111 cases notified. Thirteen school children died



**Scarlet Fever.** 399 cases of scarlet fever occurred amongst school children out of a total of 628 cases notified to the Health Department. The corresponding figures for last year were 92 and 161 respectively. The disease was, on the whole, of a mild type and there were no deaths.

**Measles.** Measles was very prevalent practically throughout the whole year. A total of 355 cases was notified in the borough, 163 of whom were school children. There were no deaths amongst children of school age.

**Whooping Cough.** Out of a total of 251 cases notified during the year 78 occurred amongst children of school age and there were no deaths.

In addition to the above 118 cases of mumps and 95 cases of chicken-pox were notified from the schools.

## 6. DENTAL TREATMENT.

The following report upon the work of the School Dental Service has been supplied by Mr. N. L. Cookson, Senior Dental Surgeon :—

“ Since the war there has been repeated change in the relationship between the strength of dental personnel and the amount of work necessary to be done, but it is upon this relationship that policy must depend. This year, owing to an increase in the acceptance rate of 4% upon that of last year, the amount of treatment necessary has increased, but unfortunately this is the first year of war that two dental surgeons have discharged the obligations of the School Dental Service for the whole twelve months. It has been expedient to adhere to the principals enumerated in my last report.

1. To maintain high inspection figures, so that organised routine work could minimise casual cases.
2. To restrict fillings to smaller cavities in permanent teeth.
3. To select the most suitable children for fillings.
4. To provide for the immediate relief of pain



This year 77% of the school children of the Borough have been inspected. The object of maintaining such a high inspection figure has been to give the greatest possible number of children the opportunity of having septic teeth removed. The circumscribed policy of pre-war days, whereby a small section of the school population was selected for comprehensive filling treatment, is not expedient in times like these, when the vital consideration must be to ensure that the general health of the school population as a whole is not impaired by unhealthy conditions of the mouth.

The acceptance rate this year is a cause for satisfaction ; indeed 87% is the highest figure ever attained. To provide treatment for such a number of children presents a formidable task, but its partial accomplishment is shown by the fact that the number of casual cases of toothache is one of the lowest on record, (i.e. 621 cases). This is a diminutive figure for one year's casuals, and they have received immediate treatment, mostly without the necessity of making further appointments. Indeed, it is satisfactory to record that the great majority of extractions have been done as a result of inspection and routine work. Relatively few have been emergency extractions.

Filling work has been curtailed. Special attention has been shown to those children who have attended regularly in the past and shown keenness in accepting fillings. Conservation has been confined to permanent teeth, especially to the key teeth of the dental arch, and those teeth which have been considered savable for some years.

A useful comparison may be made between the number of permanent teeth filled with the number extracted. This comparison will show that while 1,942 permanent teeth have been extracted 2,362 permanent teeth have been filled. More time, therefore, has been spent in conservation than for the extraction of the second dentition.

There has been a slight increase in the number of children needing treatment, but some of the causes are extraneous to this report. There are causes, however, which must be considered

here. Firstly, as a result of the reduction of staff there has been a tendency for the intervals between inspections of schools to increase, therefore, dental examination has revealed an increase in the incidence of caries. The second cause concerns conservation. Although many fillings have been inserted, it is not possible under present circumstances to introduce as routine policy prophylactic conservation. Indubitably this is the type of treatment that renders children immune from caries over long periods during their most susceptible years. The expansion of filling work which would be necessary to reduce the number of children needing treatment can only take place when the strength of the dental personnel is commensurate with the task of inserting many more fillings. The propitious thought concerning an 87% acceptance rate cannot arise untrammelled except when linked with the future, and its possibilities.

This year an investigation has been made concerning the specific cause of an increase in the condition of gingivitis. Although scalings have been done in each case, successful treatment has depended upon the administration of Vitamin C. Results have been encouraging. In collaboration with Dr. Clark, and with his approval and advice it has been decided that this treatment should be extended to all who suffer from this condition. Further supplies of Vitamin C tablets have been secured with this object in view.

I express my thanks to the Radiology Department of the Manor Hospital for their willing co-operation throughout the year. Many excellent X-ray photographs have been provided, which have facilitated diagnosis, and have been ancillary to orthodontic treatment."

7. The following are the Statistical Tables required by the Board of Education :—

**Table I**

NUMBER OF CHILDREN INSPECTED YEAR ENDED  
31ST DECEMBER, 1942

A. ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTIONS

Number of Code Group Inspections—

Entrants .. .. .	2,111
Second Age Group .. .. .	1,466
Third Age Group .. .. .	1,563
Number of other Routine Inspections .. .. .	—
	———— Total 5,140

B. OTHER INSPECTIONS

Number of Special Inspections and Re-inspections .. .. 10,608

**Table II.**

CLASSIFICATION OF THE NUTRITION OF CHILDREN INSPECTED DURING  
THE YEAR IN THE ROUTINE AGE GROUPS

Number of children inspected	A (Excellent)		B (Normal)		C (Slightly subnormal)		D (Bad)	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
5140	327	6.36	3918	76.23	887	17.25	8	0.16

**Table III**

RETURN OF DEFECTS TREATED DURING THE YEAR

GROUP I—Minor Ailments (excluding Uncleanliness, for which see  
Table V.)

Total number of Defects treated or under treatment during the year under the Authority's Scheme .. .. .	6,492
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Table III—continued

## GROUP II—Defective Vision and Squint (excluding Minor Eye Defects, treated as Minor Ailments—Group I)

Defect or Disease	No. of defects dealt with under the Authority's Scheme	Under the Authority's Scheme No. of children for whom spectacles were	
		Prescribed	Obtained
Errors of Refraction (including Squint) ..	393	243	242

## GROUP III—Treatment of Defects of Nose and Throat.

Received operative treatment .. ..	82
Received other forms of treatment .. ..	—
Total number treated .. ..	82

Table IV

## DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT

(1) Number of Children who were—	Totals
(a) Inspected by the Dentist :	
Routine Age Groups 4-16 .. ..	11,354
Specials .. ..	621
	————— 11,975
(b) Found to require treatment .. ..	8,968
(c) Actually treated .. ..	5,576
(2) Half-days devoted to—	
Inspection .. ..	40
Treatment .. ..	646
	————— 686
(3) Attendances made by the Children for treatment	7,150



Table IV—continued

## (4) Fillings—

Permanent Teeth	..	..	..	2,362	
Temporary Teeth	..	..	..	6	
				<hr/>	2,368

## (5) Extractions—

Permanent Teeth	..	..	..	1,942	
Temporary Teeth	..	..	..	10,810	
				<hr/>	12,752

(6) Administrations of general anaesthetics for extractions	..	..	..	..	..	4,493
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## (7) Other operations—

Permanent Teeth	}	..	..			329
Temporary Teeth						

Table V

## UNCLEANLINESS AND VERMINOUS CONDITIONS

(i) Average number of Visits per School made during the year by the School Nurses	..	..	..	..	30
(ii) Total number of Examinations of Children in the Schools by the School Nurses	..	..	..	..	104,939
(iii) Number of individual Children found unclean	..				10,136
(iv) Number of Children cleansed under arrangements made by the Local Education Authority	..	..	..		—
(v) Number of cases in which Legal Proceedings were taken—					
(a) Under the Education Act, 1921	..	..			—
(b) Under School Attendance By-Law.	..				—

